

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume

Issue 3

11

March 2020



**EVERY DAY IS BEAUTIFUL
WHEN YOU'RE HOLDING HANDS WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE**

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson

Now that the legislative session is in full swing, VVH provided our budget testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs. We also provided an update on the Security grant project to the House and Senate Institutions Committees. We are still awaiting final approval on our VA grant for the security project. Once received, this project will be started. I hope to update you with more concrete information next month. Our Fiscal Year 2020 budget can be found on our web page at www.vvh.vermont.gov/community/budget



The week of February 10th, Al and I attended the National Association of State Veterans' Home Winter Conference. This conference is 3 days of educational sessions on best practices and one day set aside to visit our federal congressional delegation. During the first day of the conference, VA Secretary Wilkie spoke to those in attendance. He verbalized his support of the State Veterans Home program and our continued partnership with the VA.

The first week of March I am off to Texas to accept an award on behalf of the VVH staff. We received the AHCA/NCAL Tier 3 Quality Award for our improvement in physical functioning, the reduction of antipsychotic medication use, and the reduction in the number of our Veterans and Members returning to the emergency room within 30 days of being hospitalized. The staff at VVH continues to receive well-deserved accolades for the hard work they do each and every day.



Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, LNHA, FACHCA
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Veterans' Home
www.Vvh.vermont.gov



From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon

I would like to begin by thanking the staff for your superb effort this winter. First, making it into work during difficult weather... greatly appreciated! Snow removal, impeccably clean building despite the salt and dirt tracked in, tremendous meals, superb infection control during a trying season, laundry never stops... everyone, thank you.



USS MAINE

Historically, last month was a busy month. Following are just a few events tied to our military past in no particular order:

1943 we captured Guadalcanal, Dorchester hit by a torpedo (Four Chaplain's Chapel named after this event), First Medal of Honor for WW II awarded to 2nd Lt. Nininger for the Battle of Bataan, the Battle for Iwo Jima/Flag Raising, daylight raids over Dresden Germany, 1898 Battleship Maine was blown up in Havana, Desert Storm Allied Ground Offensive began, the Tet Offensive in Vietnam, The Alamo Col. Travis "Victory or Death", Merrill's Marauders began the Burma Campaign, USS Ranger (first aircraft carrier launched), BB-1 USS Indiana (first Battleship launched).

These are but a few of the many events that occurred militarily during the month. Some of these, our Veteran's currently living here at the Vermont Veterans' Home participated in... probably not the Alamo.

This is a difficult time of year for some not living at our Home, thus if you are aware of a Veteran or spouse who requires our services, please pass our information along, or have them contact the Admissions Department. We have a great community living and working here at VVH... We know some of our brothers and sisters may be alone and vulnerable. We have a great place for them... Spread the Word!



Semper Fi

AF

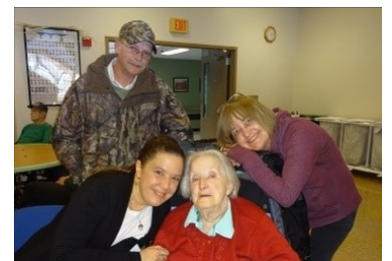
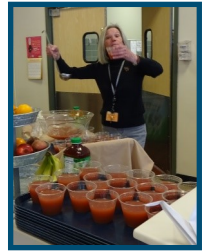


PRIDE IN FOODSERVICE WEEK!

FEBRUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 7

Our foodservice staff are very dedicated to providing nutritional meals and service with a smile to our Veterans and Members. If you happen to stop in Patriot Hall, please thank them for all they do to make someone's day.

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE



For his 50 years as a member of the American Legion, Mr. Phil Sargent was presented the **“Continuous Membership”** certificate by Mr. Steve Greenslet, Commander of American Legion Post #13, while Melissa Jackson, CEO, and Dolores Krawczyk witness the event.



Robert Burke, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, presents Vermont Veterans Medals and the Vermont Veterans Distinguished Service Medals.



The Vermont Veterans Medal and the Vermont Distinguished Service Medal were created on May 29, 2000 when House Bill 854 was signed into law. The Vermont Veterans' Medal, which is bronze, honors Veterans with honorable military service. The Vermont Distinguished Service Medal, which is silver, honors Veterans with honorable military service in a combat theater. The ribbons of both medals contain the four primary colors of the Vermont Coat of Arms: green, blue, yellow and red.

The Germ Team held a Hand-washing Inspection on February 13th.

The event was well-attended and is a good reminder of proper hand-washing technique that we should all be using every day.

Germ Team Score (HAND WASHING SCORE)

10 is best!

- 1 ___ (NEED TO IMPROVE ☹)
- 2 ___ (STILL NEED TO IMPROVE ☹)
- 3 ___ (STILL NEED TO IMPROVE ☹)
- 4 ___ (A LITTLE BETTER ☺)
- 5 ___ (BETTER YET ☺)
- 6 ___ (KEEP WORKING AT IT ☺)
- 7 ___ (YOU CAN DO IT! ☺)
- 8 ___ (YIPPEE , GETTING THERE ! ☺)
- 9 ___ (YEAH YOU!!! ☺☺☺)
- 10 ✓ (YOU DID IT , GREAT JOB!! ☺☺☺)



Patricia Babcock, RN IP, would like to thank the members of the Germ Team for helping with the hand inspection and to also thank all those who participated. Good job!



THANK YOU
TO THE
FRIENDS OF THE
VERMONT VETERANS'
HOME !



The donation of this pinball machine has been bringing a lot of joy to the Veterans and Members. It's actually quite helpful. Not only does it increase hand and eye coordination, but also helps quicken reflexes and timing. Strategizing while playing the game strengthens the brain. Playing pinball is a fun way to get some physical therapy into your day.



On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #67
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #37
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #1

Andy Hall

Glenda Harwood

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

Nancy Williams

Bennington Project Independence

Linda Guetti

Bill Hartz

VFW Auxiliary #758

His Pantry

Monument Elementary School

Art Licensing, Inc.

Walter Huysman

Nancy Lubeck

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #90

VFW Post #1332

DAV Auxiliary– Bennington Chapter #4

VFW District #4

Living Sober

Randolph & Deborah Ward

Harold Smith

Deborah Ward

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #29

Bridget & Todd Bolio

In Loving Memory of Richard C. Belluzzi

Donna Belluzzi

In Loving Memory of Cindy Lou Tiftt

Marcus Tiftt

In Loving Memory of Michael Diaferio

Ruth Grandy

In Loving Memory of Edward Galenus

Courtney Meisberger

Pamela & Michael Muckle

In Loving Memory of Josephine Cadiz

Ken, Raequel & CJ Turn

Steve & Kelsie Hennessey

Carolyn Brown

Jean Ratelle

Dick & Joan Damour

Ann Kuhn

In Loving Memory of Frank Brooks

Stacie Brooks

In Loving Memory of Hazel Pacheco

Calvin, Gerald LeBarron & Christine Isabel Custodio

Events Calendar

March 8th: Daylight Savings Time
(Turn clocks ahead!)

March 11th: Music with Sheila at
1:30pm in Patriot Hall

March 17th: St. Patrick's Day



March 20th: First Day of
Spring

March 22nd: Las Vegas Day at 1:30pm
in Patriot Hall Sponsored by the
Bennington Elks



***Thank You
to the American Legion
Auxiliary volunteers for
sponsoring a very special
Ladies Tea***

THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov

Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters

- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Neck Pillows

CD Players

I-Tune Cards

Costume Jewelry

Body Pillows

Stamps

Newspaper Subscriptions

Outdoor Benches

Earphones for TV and Music

Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

**Please make check for monetary donations
out to Vermont Veterans' Home:**

Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

THANK YOU

We are looking for people with music talent and/or special talents of any kind who would like to give time to our Veterans and Members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at michele.burgess@vermont.gov or call 802-447-6520.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted.
Please make check out to Vermont
Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are
donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

PLEASE NOTE:

**** We will NOT BE ACCEPTING
books, puzzles, magazines, VCR
tapes, CDs or DVDs or clothing
at this time. THANK YOU to all
who have donated to our
Veterans at VVH. ****

Remembering Robert “Twig” Canfield...

I moved in with Twig on July 16th, 2019, and immediately felt welcome as a new roommate. We made many discoveries as we forged our friendship (music, writing, and a wonderful sense of humor).

His many talents continue to be a part of my life. He loved to write and listen to music, and he was loved by his family. He made friends easily throughout Fair Haven and beyond. His talents include writing, a good sense of humor, and a love of life. He continues to be a big influence in my day-to-day activities here at VVH. Thank you, Twig, for sharing your soul with me.

-Quentyn Webb

Remembering Robert “Twig” Canfield...

It was very important to Twig to “remember” people and events with his writings. And to that, I feel it is just as important that we all take a moment to “remember” Twig, and even perhaps one of your favorite Twig stories. I am not a writer by any stretch of the imagination, but want to share my memories of Twig - to honor him, and to remember him...

I only knew Twig the past couple of years, but what an impression he made on me in that short time. Twig was kind, considerate, friendly, fun and funny, sociable, good-natured, a jester, and just simply liked to make people smile and laugh.

During the time I was at the reception desk, Twig would pass by my window several times a day - always stopping to tell me a joke, a story, a fun fact, a “Twigism”, or to sing a song - it was just his way of brightening my day. I will never be able to hear another “Knock, Knock” joke or a “Did you hear the one about the...” joke without thinking about Twig. I looked forward to his visits. Twig was a very interesting, and interested person - he was a conversationalist, he was truly interested in getting to know you, inquisitive, and was an artist with the knack of the gift to gab - so easy to talk with, and boy, he could tell a story! I had the pleasure of hearing a lot about Twig’s shenanigans (some that could not be printed here!). His ability to translate those stories into his writings was a gift we all have been able to enjoy. We could all pay tribute to Twig best by saying a friendly hello to the person you pass in the hallway or strike up a conversation with the person sitting next to you. You never know, you could end up with a new friend... someone like Twig.

Twig, I sure hope God has a great sense of humor because I am sure you have more jokes to tell and more stories to share. God Bless You-

-Robyn Boland



Robert “Twig” Canfield

Chaplain's Corner

Howdy Folks,

I want to share a little story that was sent to me by a friend many years ago. It is a good example of how people who fail to accept God will often make atheistic-like statements. The story goes like this:

A United States Marine was attending some college courses between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "God, if you are real then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 minutes." The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop.

Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am God, I'm still waiting..."

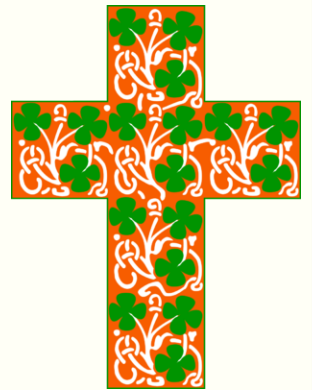
It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold. The Marine went back to his seat and sat there silently. The other students, shocked and stunned, sat there looking on in silence.

The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, "What in the world is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Marine calmly replied, "God was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to Free Speech and act like a fool. So He sent me."

The classroom erupted in cheers!

The New Testament book of Matthew has several verses that relate to this story. In Chapter 4 Verse 3 Satan says to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" Then in Verse 5, the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City and had him stand at the temple and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down and not be hurt." Jesus responded, "On the other hand it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the Test.'"



Please pray for our Troops serving around the globe.

God Bless, *Chaplain Ken*



Board of Trustees Employee Recognition

Leona Center
Nursing 10 years

Lawrence Goldwyn
Dietary 15 years

